

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.
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NUGGETS FROM GOLDEN HOURS by Harry A. Weill

In the meantime I sketch here, briefly, some tid-bits of information which will be elaborated upon later on, despite my endeavor to avoid repetition:

MATT ROYAL: In addition to his serial stories, which were of a calibre to grace the pages of any paper having circulation among adults, he did a play which had a successful run on Broadway.

ALBERT STEARNS: His "Chris and the Wonderful Lamp" was deemed by John Philip Sousa, worthy of adaptation into a Comic Opera which enjoyed a vogue in musical circles. I heard this at one of the Summer concerts which Sousa gave in Willow Grove, Pa.

CORNELIUS SHEA: In private life he was engaged in the comparatively prosaic occupation of running a Tobacco shop on Staten Island. Despite his many lurid tales of the Plains, (Gold Dust Gulch, or The Ghost of the Dark Canyon), to quote Patten: "I doubt if he ever saw the West!"

JOHN DE MORGAN: A few years prior to his serial on the Camping Out Expedition of the Authors, he had also written one in similar vein, having as its central theme the rank and file of subscribers. It was entitled: "Rodolfo the Gypsy, or The Adventures of the Golden Hours Club in the Catskill Mountains."

In elucidation of your write-up in the July issue of the Roundup, the

Borough of which Mr. John de Morgan was a Tax Collector was Richmond; he was a resident of West New Brighton, and on a visit to that town toyed with the idea of looking him up but decided it would be futile, as not only this writer but all those coeval are long since past and gone. Shea also resided on Staten Island, of which more anon. (Art.) If you wonder how I knew De Morgan was a handsome man, his picture, (altho caricatured), accompanied one of the installments of Bone's Budget, and depicted him in the attitude of fishing. It was conventionalized with the head larger than the body, and showed John sporting a magnificent pair of Mustachios, a la Kaiser Wilhelm!

QUELTON: The nom de plume of this author is as I have spelled it. **SCRIPTUS** had charge of the center page of the paper.

The elder Stearns originated the Bones tales, and upon his death they were continued by his son, Edgar Franklin Stearns, etc.

From Mr. Patten's letter to me dated March 16, 1931: "Fred Thorpe was really Albert Stearns. I never knew much about him. Stearns and I shared an office in the Arbuckle Building at one time. He died suddenly in Medford, Mass., shortly after his second book, Sinbad, Smith & Co., was published by the Century Company."

To guide you, the contributors were (according to Mr. William G. Patten, as he told me verbally),

JOHN DeMORGAN,

ALBERT STEARNS "Fred Thorpe"

CORNELIUS SHEA
HARRIE IRVING HANCOCK
WELDON J. COBB.

Just these five, who some-times wrote under pseudonyms, Stearns, for example, being the "Fred," author of the Bones series, De Morgan assumed the name of Frank Sheridan, and Ernest A. Young and a few others were also probably these authors. Patten was not on the regular staff, writing stuff only occasionally, as did also the writers of short stories—Will Lisenbee, S. A. D. Cox, T. C. Harbough, one "Quelton" and others whose names have escaped me. For be assured, Mr. Bragin, that for all this data I have to draw on my memory of 45 years ago and longer, which is quite some feat. Mr. Patten admitted that he had forgotten the plot of some of his tales, which I remembered. This gentleman is the Burt L. Standish of Frank Merriwell fame, of which stories I know naught.

You had listed in one of your announcements, the "Golden Boy," by Weldon J. Cobb (Stanley Norris). Now, Cobb was the author whose style I least admired, but such was not the consensus of opinion of the readers of Golden Hours, who, in a contest to determine the most popular writer, voted his "Tattooed Boy" tops. It goes without saying that at this late date the theme and plot of these stories, would be of no interest and carry absolutely no weight whatsoever. I wish to review them merely as a matter of sentimental attachment.

DE MORGAN: Your allusion to Mr. De Morgan's wonderful moustache just caused the writer to lay back and roar; for by coincidence the handsome appearance of this writer will also be featured, he being a remarkably good looking man.

THE "DIME NOVELS" FRIEND ("Reckless Ralph")

In "Bay State" many years ago
A youngster shy, was born
Who lived to bolster dying tales
Of Novels ("dime") some scorn.

By him, they were greatly loved.
Searching through attic stores
He treasured "Bandits" wildest scenes
Though scant, his greatest scores.

Forgetting self, he lived the life
Of heroes which he read!
Enjoying secretly all the charms
On which boys souls were fed.

"Dime Novels," magic gave to thought
Armfuls, from each bold name
Gave readers thrills through trying
days
And brought the Authors fame.

At first he bought a single book,
Its covers hid or shelved.
Later, in motley lots he bought
Then deeper still, delved;

Until a great-idea formed
Clear-sighted in his brain;
"Preserve those tales"! at any cost
For future sons, his gain.

His boyish hobby grew; he's found
His greatest joy to be
In viewing stacks of those precious
tales

Respected, harmless; free.
Ida C. Clark

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

I intended to have an index to go with this number, for all of 1946 numbers, No. 160 to 172. But I've been very busy with everything, so will have to leave it to another time.

Edwin Sissung and his wife were up here to see me, Dec. 1st, and by the looks of things, they brought some real cold weather with them. As Edwin is moving, watch the Roundup for his new address.

Have you seen the colored cover novels that Charlie Bragin is bringing out now? So far, he's brought out in colors, Young Klondike No. 1, Liberty Boys of 76 #1, Diamond Dick Jr. Weekly #104. I think the Liberty Boys No. 1 is the best one of the three. It's very hard to get the real colors like the old timers had, but he's doing his best to please everyone.

Albert Johannsen's winter address is P. O. Box No. 566, Winter Park, Fla. so write him down there.

Wm. Beaver Bill Giles has also moved to 2509 8½ Ave., Rock Island, Ill. Also Fred Singleton to 5724 S. W. 20th St., Coral Gables 34, Fla.

Have you seen my three new reproductions? They are Nos. 7, 8, 9 of Beadles Boys Library, No. 13 Life of

Col. Prentiss Ingraham, that wrote a lot of Western and Buffalo Bill stories. No. 54, California Joe, his life as a frontier plainsman, also #7 Life of another famous writer Joseph E. Badger Jr., either one of these three are worthy of any ones collection, price \$1.00 each. They can't be beat.

Edward and Tilman Le Blanc visited Clyde Wakefield Sunday, Nov. 24th. They all had a swell time.

Eli Messier and myself went out to Boston, Mass. Nov. 29th looking for novels. We found some, but everything is terribly high, guess they saw us coming.

Those who haven't paid for the Index as yet, will they please remit, as I haven't taken in enough yet to pay for the printing of them, let alone mailing them and envelope, etc. PLEASE!

We wish one and all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, lots of presents and a barrel full of cheer.

100 New Buffalo Bill Weekly, No two alike, good condition, \$25.00. Can you beat it?

Ralph F. Cummings
Fisherville, Mass.

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 Freelance the Buccaneer, Lafitte
 Pirate of the Gulf, Lafittes Lieutenant.
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 cards in it. Nice, price 3.00
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Pluck & Luck: 4 28 33 37 41 61 63 67 70 74 77 78 80 82 83 87 90 95 96 101 104 106 112 113 114 115 118 121 127 128 129 130 131 133 134 135 136 138 141 142 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 160 161 167 176 187 193 219 240 253 257 271 281 311 334 340 357 359 413 457 473 511 519 526 541 545 555 562 576 599 605 627 632 640 659 667 678 685 689 727 730 746 748 755 773 793 811 812 816 818 827 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 898 899 900 902 903 904 905 906 908 911 914 916 918 919 920 927 929 930 931 940 943 946 957 959 966 977. Practically all of these novels are in from good to like new condition; only a few are not in the very best condition. Some are uncut copies.

Pluck & Luck (Sam'l Wolff Reprints) 1164 1167 1203 1208 1211 1285 1313 1317 1332 1350 1351 1363 1375 1385 1387 1430 1440 1470 1472 1486 1490 1496 1500 1501 1504 1506 1508 1510 1513 1514 1515 1518 1523 1524 1528 1529 1535 1536 1538 1546 1551 1561 1572 1581. These late P. & L's. for sale at twenty-five cents each, or will trade any 10 for one colored-covered Frank Reade Weekly in good shape.

James Boys Weekly: 91 and 123. Covers lightly stamped and taped. Fair condition.

Young Klondike: 24. Cover lightly stamped and taped. Fair condition.

Three Chums: 55. Cover lightly stamped and taped; good condition.

Might & Main Weekly: 45. Cover lightly stamped. Good condition.

Wide Awake Weekly: 1 34 55 74. Number 1 cover lightly stamped; otherwise excellent. 34 Poor condition. 55 and 74 good—cover has been neatly repaired.

Yankee Doodle: 1 2 3 4 8 9 10 11. All have stamp mark on the cover. All are dealers return with clipped corners; some are uncut mint copies.

Young Glory: 2 3 4 7 10 13 14 16. All have stamp mark on cover; all in from good to excellent condition. Some are mint. All were dealers returns

years ago and upper corners are clipped.

Wild West: 53 247 286 294 338 361 362 368 370 372 373 374 384 396 404 420 423 442 527 594 635 660 670 712 739 746 792 820. Most of these are in fairly good shape. Some have taped edges on cover.

Fame & Fortune: 1 104 117 323 346 350 379 502 564 577 605 770 879 1039 1089 1117 1143 1159 1169 1173 1189. Most of these are in excellent condition. A few have taped covers.

Work & Win: 25 44 76 615 625 645 735 784 813 853 866 877 900 937 938 940 942 943 974. Most of these in excellent condition; some uncut. A few taped and a few lightly stamped.

Diamond Dick, Jr. 53 54 58 59 64 124 190 228 229 383 658 747. All have large stamp mark on cover. Numbers 383 & 747 poor.

Old Sleuth Weekly: 8 9 13 27 37 40 44 128 140 158. Some are uncut; some have stamp mark on cover.

Buffalo Bill Stories: 405 408 410 425 482 483 484 485 488 490 493 496 497 552. All in excellent condition.

Secret Service: 76 465 583 584 599 600 616 625 629 631 636 637 726 727 728 729 786 839 842 957 1011 1013 1043 1071. Some uncut; some with stamped covers; some taped neatly.

Log Cabin: 245 284 (J. James Storries). Large stamp mark on cover.

Wide Awake Library: 432 469 585 589 590 636 655 666 676 688 702 704 705 711 826 837 909 928 1061 1115 1134 1135 1143 1161 1165 1177 1184 1192 1207 1210 1211 1213 1233 1270 1274 1293 1307. All have large stamp on cover; 1134 and 1135 are F. Reade stories.

Nick Carter: 147 148 149 179 180. All are bound in one small book in blue buckram with gold stampings. Like new.

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All of the above novels are offered

in trade for colored-covered Frank Reade Weekly Magazines. In some cases I can give two, three or more novels for one Reade. The condition outlined above it fairly accurate. After a couple weeks of trading time, the balance remaining will be sold to whoever is interested and makes the best offer. On orders of less than five dollars add ten percent to cover cost of mailing and packing. I intend to sell them to whoever values them the most.

I can also use the following Tip-

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Tops to replace poorer copies in my already complete set: 268 269 270 272 275 276 280 282 298 315 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 325 326 345 346 347 348 356 433 447 473 566 582 583 612 613 615 629 655 662 663 665 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 680 686 690 691 692 693 694 696 697 698 699 701 and 703 to 716 inclusive.

At present we are travelling so please addow plenty of time for my mail to be forwarded from my permanent address in Newark, NEW YORK

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2 & 3	20.00 each	15.00 each	10.00 each
4, 5 & 6	17.50 each	12.50 each	7.50 each

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by J. Edward Leithead

Part 2

#102 was "Texas Jack, or Buffalo Bill's Brother," the author using the pseudonym "Lone Star." There was another Texas Jack story in the Nickel Library, "Texas Jack's Chums," by "Ned," really Lu Senarens. "The Crimson Trail," Diamond Dick Library No. 180, was about General Custer, and the author given as Buffalo Bill. No. 192 of this library was "Wild Bill's Last Trail," a reprint of the tale by Buntline in Nugget Library No. 49.

Frank Tousey publications also issued many stories of famous plainmen. In Wide Awake Library there were two Custer tales, #556, "Custer's Last Shot" and #826, "Custer's Little Dead-shot," and at least four Buffalo Bills, one of them, #1003 "Little Quick Shot, or, Buffalo Bill's Wild West in Europe," obviously being a story of his show. "Little Quick Shot" pre-

sumably was either Annie Oakley or Johnny Baker, both of whom were expert shots. Three Chums Weekly also printed a tale of the big show in #52, "Three Chums With Buffalo Bill's Wild West"; Beadle's Dime #629, "Daredeath Dick, the King of the Cowboys," deals in part with Cody as a showman and possibly was written by Major Burke, as the style isn't Ingraham's. But one Wild Bill story appeared in Wide Awake Library, #921, "Wild Bill's Boy Partner," yet it published more about Pawnee Bill than most of the black-and-white libraries, the first being #876, "Pawnee Bill and the Oklahoma Boomers," by George W. Goode, followed at intervals by seven Pawnee Bill tales by Paul Braddon.

The colored cover Pluck and Luck weekly reprinted both Custer tales from Wide Awake Library, 3 of the Buffalo Bills, leaving out the Wild West Show number, and 2 Pawnee Bills. #558 of this weekly, "Jack Mosby, the Guerrilla King," is a story of California Joe in the Civil War.

To be continued

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American War Leader Series (1944) Nos. 1, General George C. Marshall. No. 2, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. No. 3, Gen. Douglas MacArthur. No. 4, Admiral Ernest J. King. A fine series, well illustrated, same size as small Pluck & Luck, 24 pages, price 15c each. They are beautiful. This is the set.

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The Cosmopolitan Art Journal, Bd. Vol. 4, 1860. Illust. fine 50c.

The Illustrated American Bd. Vol. 7, 1891. Lots of nice pictures worth framing in this Vol. Many articles on chess and what-not. \$2.00 takes it.

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The Argosy, Vol. 7. Nos. 322 to 338. Lots of fine stuff in here. Bd. \$3.00 takes the vol.

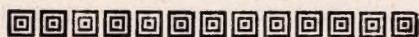
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Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.



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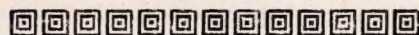
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